

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 258584
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY:EUR:JKAUFMANN

APPROVED BY:EUR:JKAUFMANN

S/S-O:JETOBIN

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S E C R E T STATE 258584

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 17698 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA
KHARTOUM KINSHASA LONDON LUSAKA MOGADISCIO PARIS USUN NEW YORK
DATED OCT 26:

QTE: S E C R E T BONN 17698

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SO, ET, GW, PGOV

SUBJECT: OGADEN INITIATIVE

REF: STATE 254201

1. DURING CALL OCTOBER 25 BY DR. BRZEZINSKI ON FOREIGN
MINISTER GENSCHER, AND AFTER BRZEZINSKI HAD PRAISED
ACTION BY FRG IN FREEING HOSTAGES IN MOGADISCIO,
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GENSCHER REFERRED TO PROPOSALS FOR INITIATIVE
CONCERNING OGADEN. HE SAID HE HAD TOLD UK FOREIGN
MINISTER OWEN WHEN LATTER WAS IN BONN LAST WEEK THAT,
AFTER WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED IN MOGADISCIO,

FRG FELT IT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD IF FRG IS "RESERVED"
ON A QUESTION OF INITIATIVE REGARDING OGADEN.

2. GENSCHER SAID ANY ACTIVITY REGARDING OGADEN PROBLEM IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WOULD BE SEEN AS DETRIMENTAL TO SOMALIA. FRG DID NOT WISH TO GIVE IMPRESSION TO SOMALIA THAT THIS WAS FRG REACTION TO WHAT HAD OCCURRED IN MOGADISCIO. GENSCHER REPEATED THAT FRG MUST PROCEED CAREFULLY; PEACE IS IMPORTANT, BUT WE MUST SEE HOW BEST TO ACCOMPLISH IT.

3. BRZEZINSKI SAID HE APPRECIATED SENSITIVITIES OF SITUATION, BUT IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT TIDE MAY TURN SOON IN OGADEN IN FAVOR OF ETHIOPIA. IF SOVIETS POUR IN ARMS AND ETHIOPIANS CAN ORGANIZE THEMSELVES, MATTERS COULD TURN AGAINST SOMALIA. THEREFORE, IN LONG TERM, SOMALIA SHOULD SEE THAT INITIATIVE LOOKING TO A RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT WOULD BE IN THEIR LONG-TERM INTEREST.

4. GENSCHER COMMENTED THAT HE HAD INDICATED THE FRG DID NOT WISH TO BE OPENLY ACTIVE ON THE MATTER, BUT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT FRG WOULD NECESSARILY OPPOSE AN INITIATIVE. HE AGREED WITH BRZEZINSKI COMMENT ABOUT SOMALIA'S LONG-TERM INTEREST AND SAID THAT THIS INTEREST, AS WELL AS THE INTERESTS OF THE WEST, HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN CHANGED BECAUSE OF THE EVENTS IN MOGADISCIO. HE REPEATED
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THAT THE FRG WISHED TO PROCEED WITH GREAT CAUTION.

5. EMBASSY WILL BE FOLLOWING UP WITH WORKING-LEVEL IN FOREIGN OFFICE ALONG LINES REFTEL AND WILL REPORT.
STOESSEL UNQTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERVENTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE258584
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR:JKAUFMANN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770397-0835
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977108/aaaaagug.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b157a933-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 254201
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 986205
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OGADEN INITIATIVE
TAGS: PGOV, SO, ET, GE, (BRZEZINSKI, ZBIGNIEW), (GENSCHER, HANS-DIETRICH)
To: USNATO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b157a933-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009